

TUITION PROPOSAL

SUBMITTED BY:
THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
of the
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

The issue of tuition is not a new one. In 1955, tuition at the University of Hawaii was decreased from \$200 per year to the present \$170. In 1971, the Sixth State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1163 (Act 142) which amended the Hawaii Revised Statutes. The relevant section (Chapter 304-4) had previously limited the University of Hawaii's tuition assessment at the four-year and graduate level to \$170. The resultant changes produced two significant alterations in the tuition structure of the University. The first made in the \$170, students now pay, minimal rather than maximal. The second established the Community College system tuition at a minimum of \$30 per year.

At the same time, the Legislature, via committee reports, requested the University's Board of Regents, together with the administrations of the various campuses to *evaluate, devise, and present to the Legislature prior to the 1972 session, its plan for the implementation of a tuition increase to be effectuated no earlier than fall, 1973.*

The Senate Higher Education Committee report #501 of 1971 requested that the Board of Regents in conjunction with the University administration, *re-evaluate the existing tuition structure and devise as soon as practicable implement a new tuition structure for the system, whereby the cost of higher education will be reasonably and equitably shared by all*

parties, comparable to the tuition at other universities of similar size and quality.

This report further states that:

The need for a comprehensive review of the tuition structure for the entire University of Hawaii is long overdue. The rising cost of higher education, coupled with a much lower rate of increase in State revenues and the necessity for higher education to compete with other agencies of the State for limited revenues will have a crippling effect on the University of Hawaii System if this gloomy picture is not offset by an increase in tuition.

ASUH interpreted the intent of this request to be three-fold, listed below in order of importance:

- 1) to insure that tuition assessment is distributed equitably;
- 2) that the assessment be comparable to similar institutions;
- 3) that additional revenue be generated through increased tuition assessments.

Keeping the three priorities in mind, ASUH would like to submit the following tuition schedule for consideration.

I. Equitable Distribution

The ASUH has attempted to incorporate the variations in instructional costs on a 9 credit-hour basis in its tuition proposal. Currently, at the UH Manoa campus, every student is assessed \$195 full-time tuition and a general fee regardless of comparable costs of programs. However, rough estimates have been made which indicate a dramatic difference in the costs per-credit-hour for various instructional programs, by divisions - undergraduate, graduate, and professional graduate. Average costs per credit hour range from \$48.97 for undergraduate students to \$171.44 for graduate students. Thus the credit hour differential for undergraduates, graduates, law and medical students.

II. Comparable To Other Similar Institutions

The ASUH has also taken into account the tuition rates that institutions of similar size, function, and quality utilize. However much caution should be used in assuming this measure to be of any great significance as several other factors must be considered jointly with this in order to be of any value - cost of living, social value of education, societal needs, occupational opportunities, and State goals for higher education among others.

III. Additional Revenue Generation

ASUH has considered the State's present fiscal crisis and the rising costs of education in relation to tuition. We realize that students must share the burden of attempting to defray those costs through a tuition increase.

1) Community College Tuition

ASUH feels that although the costs of some of the community college programs are high (i.e. Vocational-Technical Programs), we could not justify the doubling of their current tuition schedules. The proposed increase however, takes into consideration the unique purpose and philosophy behind the community college system, which is to provide equal educational opportunities to every State resident who has graduated from high school or reached the age of eighteen, regardless of financial ability.

It is extremely difficult to make comparable analysis of other community colleges tuitions as it is difficult to distinguish in many instances junior colleges from community colleges which generally have very different goals and objectives. Figures ran from highs of \$200+ to \$0 in the California system.

2) Four-Year and University Undergraduate Tuition

Since Hilo College's inception, the undergraduates at

that campus have been assessed the same tuition as that of the Manoa Undergraduate. ASUH feels that the continuation of this trend is justified. A Hilo resident should not be penalized by a tuition differentiation for having to enroll at Manoa for programs not currently offered at his campus (i.e. Engineering). A differentiation in tuition between the two campuses may also cause the Hilo student to view his education in relation to tuition costs as an inferior education.

There has been some discussion on the feasibility of using a tuition differential as a means of promoting student population dispersal to the Hilo campus. However, although such a differential would have to be substantial to offset added expenses that would be incurred by a transferred student, ASUH feels that this intent would be better served through program dispersal.

3) Graduate Tuition (Including Law School)

The average instructional cost per credit hour for graduate students at Manoa was found to be more than three times that of lower-division undergraduates. The instructional costs on the graduate level are higher due to the lower student-instructor ratios and the necessity in most cases for the courses to be taught by PH. D.'s. Therefore, the proposed tuition schedule reflects the higher cost of instruction

incurred at the graduate level. However, many graduate students may be assumed to be more vulnerable to a tuition increase as many of them may be self-supporting and married. An excessive tuition increase would place undue hardship upon this segment of the student population.

Graduate tuitions at comparable institutions range from \$507 to \$670 which is again slightly higher than in our proposal.

4) Law and Medical Schools

Considering the high costs of these programs and the very likely high returns to these students in the future because of their social utility, it seems equitable that a higher tuition rate be used in these instances.